

MUSIC SHANREN MINE MINORITY
CULTURE FOR ROCK P.3

TRAVEL RELIVE FILMS THROUGH
THEIR LOCATIONS P.5

FOOD LU CUISINE: SHANDONG'S
CULINARY TREASURE P.8

今日北京

BEIJING TODAY

PUBLISHED BI-WEEKLY
ISSUE NO. 733
JULY 3, 2015
BEIJINGTODAY.COM.CN
3.00元

ART UPSIDE DOWN

ARTIST ZHANG KAI RE-IMAGINES THE CANON OF
EUROPEAN ART, REPLACING ITS ROMAN-INSPIRED
FIGURES WITH CUDDLY AND TIMID ANIMALS. P.4



北京青年报
BEIJING YOUTH DAILY

Beijing Youth Daily Group President: Zhang Yanping
Editor-in-Chief: Yu Haibo ■ Director: Li Xiaobing
Address: Building A, 23 Baijiazhuang Dong Li,
Chaoyang District, Beijing, China 100026



Editor-in-Chief: Jack Wang ■ Content Director: Su Derui ■ Designer: Zhao Yan ■ Phone: (010) 6590 2515 ■ FAX: (010) 6590 2525
ISSN: 2095-9591 ■ 刊号: CN11-0120 ■ 邮发代号: I-364 ■ Overseas Code No: D1545 ■ Subscriptions: (010) 6590 2511
Advertisements: (010) 6590 2515 ■ E-mail: info@beijingtoday.com.cn ■ Online Distribution Agents: Spider.com.cn and Kankan.cn
Published under the auspices of the Office of the Beijing Municipal Government. Run by Beijing Youth Daily Group.

ISSN 2095-9591
00733
9 772095 959006



ENTERTAINMENT

Reality Shows the Path to Celebrity Status in China

BY DIAO DIAO

Chinese media are reveling in the “marriage scandal” of Deng Chao – husband of *Empresses in the Palace* star Sun Li – who was spotted on a date with actress Jiang Yiyan last week.

Deng has played numerous roles in modern and ancient costume TV series and films, though he was never a celebrity until his 2014 appearance on the *Running Man* reality show. Jiang was also a guest on a recent episode in *Running Man*.

The alleged scandal broke right after Friday's episode aired.

Even before Deng Chao, *Running Man* made a celebrity out of Angelababy and turned her personal life and exploits into the gossip of the nation.

Taiwanese actress Ivy Chen also became popular thanks to her appearance on the reality show *Divas Hit the Road*. Chen was only known as a pretty and lovely girl in the TV series, but after the reality show, her every morning run was being captured by legions of photographers.

For actors who fail to gain celebrity status with their work, reality TV appearances are quickly becoming a shortcut to fame.

Reality shows rose to prominence on American TV in the early 2000s by rounding up ordinary people and having them

compete in tasks in a scripted framework. The final programs were heavily edited and rearranged before airing.

But ordinary people are getting boring.

Today's reality shows are more likely to invite moderately famous people to boost their ratings and win the TV stations a bigger fan base.

China's first reality program was the *Super Girl* musical competition series of the early 2000s. By 2012, reality shows were among the most popular TV programs.

While actual profits are often closely guarded secrets, it's not hard to understand how much celebrities benefit from exposure on these programs.

Battles between legions of fans on social media platforms often ensure that reality show topics remain at the top of social media streams and keyword listings. How much of this is spontaneous or organized by the so-called “water army” of professional posters remains up for debate.

“Water army” members are notorious for their ability to create issues where none exists and to manipulate top comments on public platforms.

While there have always been shortcuts to fame, reality shows offer a path that let's celebrities give a real – or carefully cultivated windows – into their personal lives. ■

Hide Behind the Blade

BY WANG YAN

Most people know Xu Haofeng as the screenwriter of Wong Kar-wai's *Grandmaster*, but Xu has other identities.

Xu is a professor at the Department of Film Directing in Beijing's Film Academy, a Taoism and martial arts enthusiast and a published author. His short story “Master” was named Best Short Fiction in a recent competition by *People's Literature*.

As a writer of *wuxia* fiction, Xu is beloved by many fans for his ability to capture “image of real Chinese.”

In Xu's eyes, the real Chinese spirit lies in stories of martial arts and chivalry. Xu says martial arts are a crucial aspect of Chinese culture heritage and that ancient scholars were expected to be adept with both pen and sword.

Physical training was considered as one of the best ways to nurture one's temperament. The training aspect of martial arts is considered essential in character building, as well as a source of stamina, courage and perseverance.

Blade Behind Back is a collection of Xu's six short stories. Each reflects Xu's idea of the Chinese spirit.

The first story “Master” depicts a southern martial artist traveling north to Tianjin to make a name for himself in the kung fu world. The three main characters are all people with higher ideas, and while their conversation is minimal their emotion is strong.

Geng Liangcheng, one of the three, is sabotaged and injured by his opponent. At the end of the story, an injured Geng is sent to a local church where he ignores medical advice and pursues his enemy to his own death.

“In other people's eyes, Geng's decision was beyond stupid. But Geng knows that if he did not take that last chance he would live the rest of his life in despair,” Xu writes.

Most characters in Xu's fiction are idealists like Geng. Their personalities represent a side of China that is being lost in a tide of money and power that began to swell in the 1980s.



Xu's language is simple, sharp and easy to understand, but at the same time it captures the spirit of Jianghu with intertwined suspense and poetry.

Xu's descriptions of each fight also show off his profound knowledge of different schools of Chinese martial arts. It might be hard for first-time readers to understand what kung fu style Xu is talking about, but Xu makes fast-paced martial arts strategy both poetic and literary.

“The human body is a natural defense system. No matter how powerful the punch, it will still bounce back once it hits your body. The worst you can normally do is injure the flesh and see some blood. But after being trained in horse stance, a punch can



contain enough force to smash bones and reach the organs,” Xu writes in “Master.”

To Xu, kung fu is more than self defense: it represents a dignified way of living.

Ordinary folks in Xu's book – even those small, mediocre – start to live real lives once they discover kung fu. “Wuxia fiction is a blade, and it's a place where I can hide,” Xu writes on the first page of *Blade Behind Back*. ■

MUSIC



Shanren Miners Minority Culture for Ethnic Rock

Photos by Shanren Band

BY DIAO DIAO

As listeners mature and begin looking for sounds beyond indie rock and folk, they invariably end up in the weird world of ethnic rock and Shanren Band.

This team of mountain men has a sound that is so entirely unlike any other indie band that they have become a favorite of TV programs that cater to weird tastes. But that strange sound also plants commercial success firmly beyond their reach.

Drummer Ou Jianyun and lead singer Qu Zihan began developing their first simple melodies in 1998. A year later they formed Shanren Band with two other musicians.

The band's name is a nod to how the four original Chinese members came from the mountains of southwest China, a cultural crossroads that's famous for its majestic mountains.

Lead singer Qu Zihan grew up in Tengchong, Yunnan province with the region's ethnic minorities. Xiaobudian is from Guizhou province and brings the folk sounds of his Buyi minority. Sigao Ala is a plucked bass player from the Yi minority and drummer Ou Jianyun is from Kunming. The fifth member, Sam Debell, comes from the UK and handles more exotic percussion.

Qu describes his life as saturated with the folk songs of the Bai, Achang, Jingpo and Dulong people.

"There's music everywhere on the street. People sing throughout their lives. It's natural," Qu says. "I have memories of their lanterns and bonfires, and of their long songs echoing into the night."

Although Ou Jianyun is an ethnic Han, the minorities of Yunnan province

shaped his life. He has spent the last two decades exploring the roots of minority folk music at their source.

"From time to time, we go back to our hometowns to talk with strangers and live with people from other ethnic groups for a few days," Ou says.

Ou focuses on the vocal rhythms of the people he meets and attempts to tap out the beats to reinforce his memory. Running out of ideas is the last thing he worries about.

"Whenever local people sing and dance, they are all different because humans have different feelings in their heart," Ou says. "Even a short, random song by a little girl is of great value – even if it's just a human voice without background music. That's the draw of folk music. You can almost get drunk on it."

They also collect the stories of local people to acquire the background needed to make sense of what they gather.

After each trip, the members reunite to share what they've seen and make some adjustments and add a bit of modern musical magic.

Xiaobudian is often regarded as the band's most talented musician, being able to play dizi, xiao and Yi ethnic flutes, the bawu, the jaw harp and the kalimba. He is also a skilled ventriloquist.

Sigao Ala is a genius at anything with strings and can play music by blowing on the edge of a leaf.

But the most unusual member is obviously Debell. While there are many Chinese bands with foreign members, the sight of a foreigner playing Chinese folk is exceptionally rare.

Debell studied folk percussion and found a deep love for Chinese folk music. He left the sterile environment of London

for the colorful cultural mix of southern China and encountered Shanren along the way.

Although the band has found a clear musical direction, the trip has not been without a few rough bumps.

In the early 2000s, the band attempted to modernize folk with guitars and present their creation in a way that suited modern listeners.

"The result was just awful," Qu says.

"As we've learned more about the history and customs of China's minority groups, we've found that folk instruments have a stronger character than the typical rock instruments. Besides, a Chinese guy playing guitar can seem as weird as a foreigner playing an erhu," Qu said.

While most of the last decade has seen people focused on foreign rock and Hong Kong pop, folk is experiencing a resurgence. Qu says he thinks it's the culture's instinctive attempt to protect and preserve its own traditions.

But that doesn't mean the public is ready for what Shanren has to offer.

"Folk music can catch up with the time and doesn't need to be dead and cataloged on museum tapes," Qu says. "But some of the featured tunes and rhythms are really, really weird. They have beats that aren't used in modern music. We still hope that we can convince more people to fall in love with this kind of folk."

The members of Shanren Band are currently living in Beijing, far from the minority groups that inspire their creation. While the cost is high, there are few better cities in which to seek an audience. ■

site.douban.com/shanren/

LIVE SHOW ROUNDUP

Beijing boasts one of the world's most vibrant indie music scenes. Support our local artists with a trip to one of this week's live performances!

Jiaojin Session @ Mao Live House

Jiaojin Band is a rap group founded in 2009. Their song "Remember" allowed them to break into the Chinese indie music. Later, their "Forever Xuanwu" found fame when the government merged Xuanwu district into Xicheng. Jiaojin just finished their new song "Follow Your Heart" and will perform it and other favorites on July 4.

⌚ 7:30-11:30 pm, July 4

📍 111 Gulou Dong Dajie, Dongcheng

💎 60 yuan (pre sale), 80 yuan (at door)

D Force Night @ Dada Bar

Immune, Nara, MHP and some other indie electric bands are gathering to celebrate the first albums *Ocean* and *Pillow* of Immune and Nara. Nara is an indie musician active since 2005 and Immune is the guitarist of the famous post rock band Glow Curve.

⌚ 10-11:30 pm, July 4

📍 206 Gulou Dong Dajie, Dongcheng

💎 50 yuan

Blues Session @ Jianghu Bar

Every Sunday night, Jianghu Bar invites bands to play the blues. It is a communication platform for music fans, musicians and listeners to show off and share ideas. Mississippi and Texas blues, Chicago blues, Memphis and New Orleans rhythm and blues will be presented on Sunday night.

⌚ 9-11 pm, July 5

📍 7 Dongmianhua Hutong, Jiadaokou Nan Dajie, Dongcheng

💎 Free



Jiani and Shannon @ 69 Cafe

Jiani is a folk singer from Qinghai province. A love for jazz took him abroad to master new styles. Jiani's soft and comfortable style combines delight and determination. She will be joined on stage by Shannon, the guitarist and ukulele player of Australian band The Plum Trees.

⌚ 9-11 pm, July 4

📍 109 Nanluogu Xiang, Dongcheng

💎 30 yuan



ARTISTS



Crown Poems

Oriental Echoes in European Classicism

BY WANG LINGXIAO

The Rape of the Sabine Women, a scene of conspiracy, war and love, is the representative work of French artist Jacques-Louis David, a cynical Jacobin who did a turn in prison after the Thermidor Reaction of 1794.

Contemporary artist Zhang Kai reimagines that work in *The Rabbits of David*, where the original Roman-inspired backgrounds, figures and shapes are replaced by wilderness, rabbits and fruits.

"David intended to express turmoil, radical thought and unease in his painting. I try to turn those feelings upside down by using timid rabbits, rich fruits, open fields and mountains," Zhang says.

Such appropriation dominates his early works. Zhang's *I Fold the Love Letter into a Ship* and *The Last Supper* are similar nods to the work of Johannes Vermeer and Leonardo Da Vinci.

The use of "appropriation" as a creative method appeared in the mid-19th century. It became a dominant branch of post-modern art in the 1960s. Unlike simple imitation, artists put old images into new context to create a new concept based on existing patterns.

"Everyone has his own understanding when sees the masterpieces of Western art. I'm trying to use these images to

express an Oriental thought using a new layout and content," Zhang says. "It's also a way for me to show my respect to my favorite masters."

Johannes Vermeer is Zhang's favorite artist. One of Holland's greatest painters, Vermeer was also a lover of appropriation. In his painting *A Young Woman Seated at a Virginal*, viewers can find Dirck Van Baburen's *The Procuress* on the wall. Vincent van Gogh similarly appropriated the Japanese Ukiyo-e style in many of his paintings.

Zhang expands the scope of his work in *The Quiet Field*, a non-appropriation in which pebbles consist of a wide field and two cats arrive holding candles.

"Pebbles appear ordinary in the field. I'm trying to praise their simplicity as both ordinary and great," he says.

Nevertheless, cats and rabbits dominate the body of Zhang's work. When creating *Seeking or Meeting You*, Zhang reflected for a long time about why cats and rabbits have become his subjects.

Born in 1985 in Shanxi, Zhang studied art at Academy of Fine Arts of Shanxi Normal University and graduated in 2007. His present style formed during university.

"Our generation is relatively isolated because most of us are the only child. We grew up in an era of cartoons and the Inter-

net. I latched onto cats for their mysterious elegance and rabbits for their timidity and vigor," Zhang says.

"In fact, cats and rabbits are the metaphors of myself. Their images are very close to the scenes I want to show."

His favorite artists are mostly post-impressionists such as Vincent Van Gogh and Paul Cezanne. Their large areas of bright color and subjective shapes can more easily draw children's eyes, he said.

During high school, he started to study impressionism. Afterward, he realized the solemn and mysterious classicism was a better fit for his quiet character.

"Even though various artists can be classified from their expression approaches, the content and emotion is what matters. In my mind, Vermeer and Morandi are in the same category because they both express peace and balance. Jan Van Eyck and Yayoi Kusama are also the same because of their interest in piety and bigotry," Zhang says.

"I'm sure my painting style will continue to vary with my time and mood. When I find a good idea, I go with it," he says. "I feel blessed to be doing what I like, so I will continue my art with great devotion." ■

(Wang Lingxiao is an intern at Beijing Today.)



Belated Understanding



The Virgin of the Rocks

artand.cn/zkart

张凯-zk



The Rabbits of David

A TRAVEL

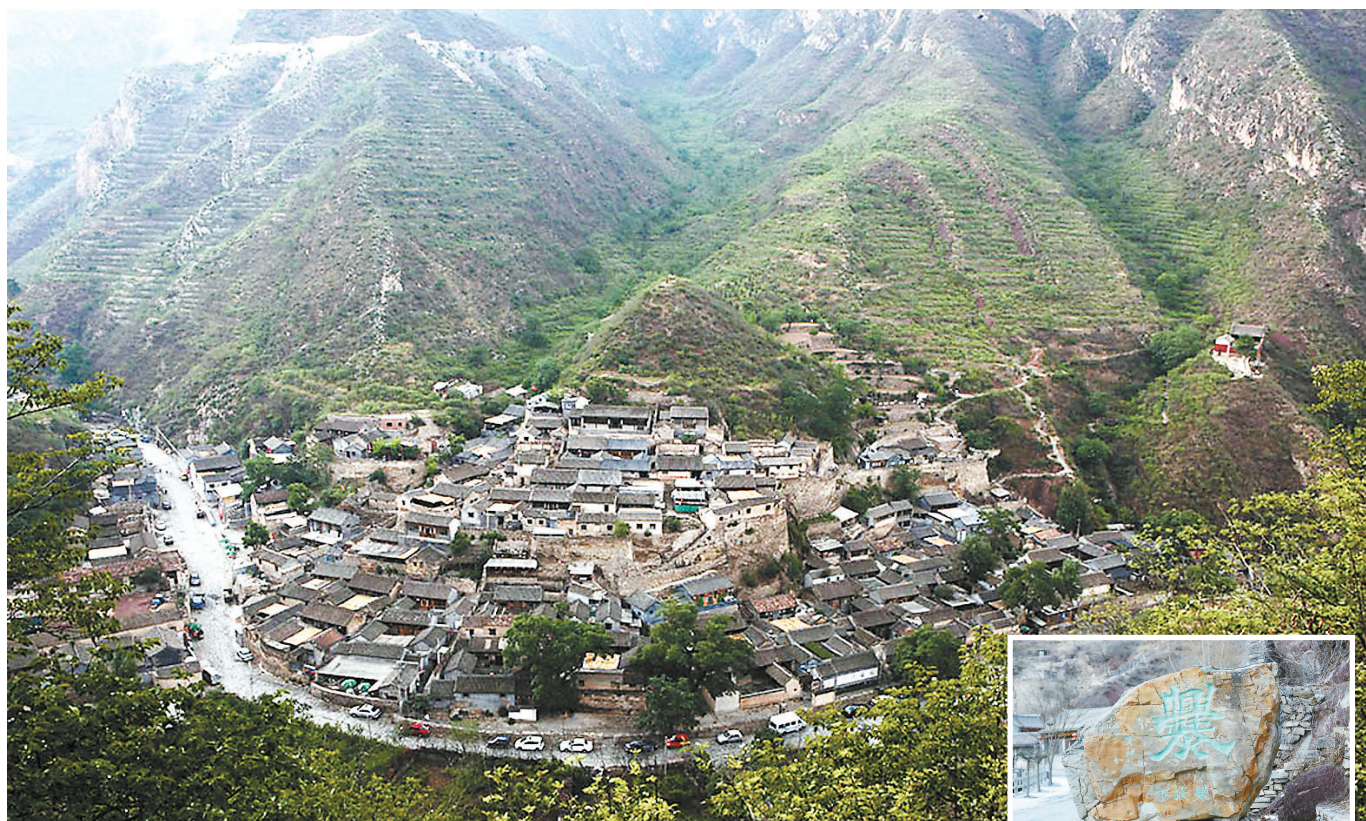


Photo by www.photofans.cn



Photo by www.mafengwo.cn



Photo by you.ctrip.com



Photo by CFP

Famous Filming Locations in Beijing

BY SHU PENGQIAN

TV lovers don't have to travel far to find the ancient-looking film sets that populate their screens.

As China's cultural, economic and political center, Beijing's modern buildings and historical mansions are popular destinations for both domestic and foreign film crew.

Mei Lanfang Memorial Hall

Hong Kong actor and singer Leslie Cheung is best known to world audiences for his appearance in Chen Kaige's *Farewell My Concubine*. The film tells the story of opera performer Chen Dieyi's tragic life and many scenes were shot in Beijing at the Mei Lanfang Memorial Hall.

The classic courtyard home was formerly owned by Yi Kuang in the Qing Dynasty. Turbulent times forced the noble mansion to change owners several times. Mei Lanfang, widely considered the greatest Peking opera singer, eventually took possession of the house.

Mei lived out his final 10 years in the house after 1951. When he died, Premier Zhou Enlai suggested building a memorial museum in memory of Mei's huge cultural contributions.

The hall opened in October 1986 and Deng Xiaoping personally penned the hall's title placard.

A stone bust of Mei welcomes visitors through the main door. Beside it is a patch of bamboo, a plant that is symbolic of moral integrity. The yard also has two persimmon trees and two cherry-apple trees, symbolic of Mei's wish to live in peace.

But the outside scenery is not the reason to visit this house. Costly collections are the marrow of the memorial hall.

Mei's wife Fu Zhifang and his children contributed 32,421 samples of antique calligraphy, paintings, rare opera scripts and opera costumes



Photo by www.lofter.com

to the museum.

As a celebrity-themed museum, the exhibit area opens with introductory text and photos about Mei, his career and his personal life.

After leaving Mei's home, visitors can find great food in the neighboring Huguosi area.

9 am - 4 pm (closed Mondays)

9 Huguosi Jie, Xicheng

Taking Buses 22, 38, 88, 409, 626, 609 or 690 to Huguosi Station

10 yuan; 5 yuan for students, elders and the disabled

(010) 8322 3598

meilanfong.com.cn

Headquarters of the Qing Army and Navy

Director Jiang Wen's maiden film *In the Heat of the Sun* impressed a generation born in the 1970s and 1980s. One scene where the protagonist Ma Xiaojun confesses his heart to Mi Lan in front of Mi's home is particularly iconic.

"Mi's home" is in fact the former headquarters of the army and navy of the Qing Dynasty.

The mansion was originally a typical building that belonged to the fifth son of Emperor Yongzheng in Qing Dynasty. As the dynasty fell into decay, the building's changed hands to

become an office with a more European look.

During the early years of the Republic of China, it housed the Office of the President, the State Council and Office of the Prime Minister in succession. Now the previous political department has turned into a Qing history research center under Renmin University of China.

Although visitors cannot enter the building, they can still see the same view of it that was featured in *In the Heat of the Sun*.

3 Zhangzizhong Lu, Dongcheng

Cuandixia Village

In 2007, *The Warlords* dominated Chinese box offices. The film told the story of the Qing Dynasty's battle to put down the Taiping rebellion.

Its excellent action scenes and displays of brotherhood were popular with viewers, but their impact depended greatly on the perfect shooting location.

For the film, the director picked Cuandixia Village.

The old village has a history of 400 years. Its large, perfectly preserved Ming and Qing dynasty courtyards have earned it a reputation as a "living architectural fossil."

On a walk through the village, tourists can smell fish and stewed chicken being prepared in farmhouse inns.

With proper scheduling you can catch the sunrise or sunset in the village. Many people consider the sunrise in Cuandixia to be even more impressive than on Mount Taishan.

A sightseeing stand on the hillside gives visitors a vantage point over the whole village.

35 yuan; 18 yuan for students and elders

Former Shougang Group Factory

After Shougang Group moved its iron and steel works away from its old Beijing factory, the industrial complex found new life as a film set.

Empty factories, tall chimneys, open field and winding railways provide shooting crews with natural stages to shoot screenplays set in the 1970s or 1980s.

Visitors can experience the old industrial age here and find its shadow in TV series such as *You are My Brother*.

68 Shijingshan Lu, Shijingshan

(Shu Pengqian is an intern at Beijing Today.)

ETCETERA

Getting Upset

BY QU CHAONAN

Humorous catch phrases are the go-to language for emotional Internet users. These three are already creeping off the Web and into casual conversation.



Fá KāiXīn (伐开心)

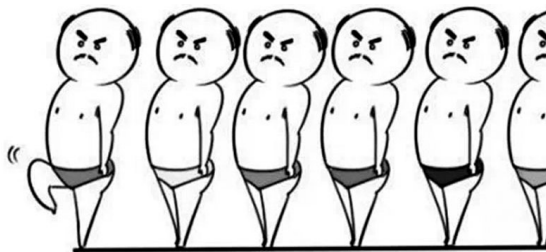
Fā kāixīn is derived from the Wu dialect spoken in the provinces of Shanghai, Jiangsu and Zhejiang.

The areas' locals tend to pronounce bù kāixīn, meaning unhappy, as fō kāixīn. Through the magic of the interwebs, this ended up further corrupted into the cutesy-sounding fá kāixīn. Girls often use the phrase when asking for hugs or new handbags.

Shén Bǔ Dāo (神补刀)

Shén bǔ dāo describes making unconventional responses to joke with or embarrass others. The character shén refers to tact and expectation.

It's easier to understand with an example. If an ex-girlfriend invites you to her wedding, the graceful thing to do would be to give her your blessing. The shén bǔ dāo response would be to say, "I Can't make it, but I'll come next time".



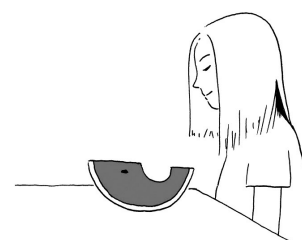
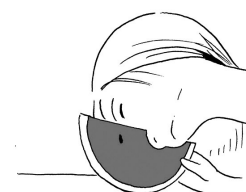
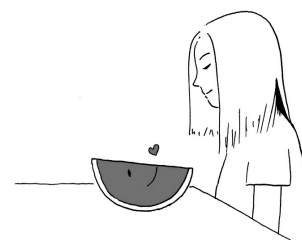
Shàng TiānTái (上天台)

Shàng tiāntái literally means to get up on the rooftop. During the last World Cup, it became a reference to soccer fans threatening to commit suicide by jumping off a roof after losing a big bet. Today the phrase has become a joke used in any heartbreaking situation.

On one popular show, the hostess Wu Xin's voice cracked while singing. Her co-singer, heartthrob Li Yifeng, hugged her. The subtitles for the event read "see you on the tiāntái". ■



WEEKLY TANGO



TANGO

TANGO

Tango studies at Tsinghua University's Academy of Art and Design. For more comics, follow his Sina Weibo feed at [@tangocartoon](#).

Ask Beijing Today

"Ask Beijing Today" is our weekly column that attempts to make life in China less confusing.

You can email your own questions to ask@beijingtoday.com.cn.

Q. A friend of mine wants to relocate to Beijing for work. Currently he is a math teacher at a high school in Spain and has previous work experience as an accountant. What kind of jobs can he find in the city? Where can he look for job postings?

A. If he wants to teach, we suggest he contact the city's international schools directly. Most post hiring notices on their own websites. The visa won't be a problem as long

as he gets all the required paperwork, including a criminal records check. Keep in mind there are a ton of scammers posting education-related job offers online. Many of them are just out to steal your passport information. For professional jobs, LinkedIn is a good way to get noticed by local HR companies.

Q. Do you know where can I buy a good Aussie meat pie? I just found out today that the only store I knew is closing due to lack of business.

A. There is a wonderful meat pie store founded by two Australian expats who are meat pie lovers. Unfortunately, its flagship location in Sanlitun closed on August 7. They are still running their business

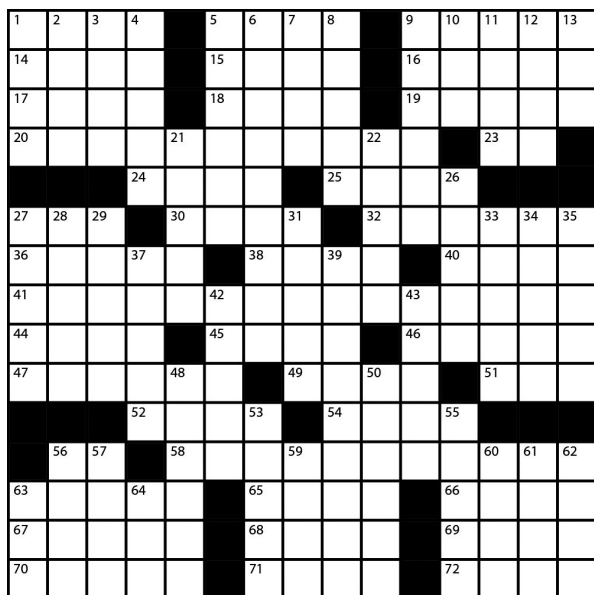
online and you can have their frozen pies delivered to your doorstep. For more information, visit twoguysandapie.com.

Q. I am looking for a piano teacher. I have piano at home and never played before, so I'm a total beginner.

A. The Beijing Midi School of Music is one of China's best schools for learning modern music. They can teach both music theory and advanced musical techniques. You can call the school in Haidian District for more information at (010) 6250 6210. If you want to start smaller, hit up LinkedIn and search to see whose is providing piano tutoring in your area. ■

(Qu Chaonan is an intern at Beijing Today.)

THE BEIJING TODAY CROSSWORD



BY SU DERUI

Across

1. Third Ring ____
5. Con game

9. Entertainers
14. One of the Great Lakes
15. Chap
16. Whole
17. Deserve

18. In the past
19. Blackened
20. Types of seaplanes
23. Shanghai dialect family
24. Staff note
25. Heavy burden
27. "Casablanca" pianist
30. Require
32. Did comparison shopping
36. Proverb
38. Big brass
40. Ripped
41. Confusion
44. Spanish city
45. Way out
46. Fall colors
47. Southernmost province
49. Body cavity
51. Catch sight of
52. Kinky coiffure
54. Not many
56. Lumberjack's need
58. Awareness
63. French river
65. Destroy
66. Poetic preposition

67. Ishmael's people
68. Roulette bet
69. Be fond of
70. Type of mob
71. June honorees
72. Chemical ending

Down

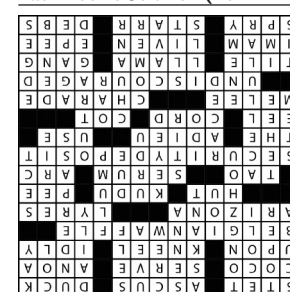
1. Snorkeler's haunt
2. Exam format
3. Spacious
4. Shade of blue
5. Sex ed hygiene subject
6. Tax on greenhouse gas
7. Too
8. Music genre
9. Cavalryman
10. Lennon's wife
11. Harbor craft
12. Ballet skirt
13. Pigpen
21. More recent
22. November birthstone
26. Duplicate
27. With a heavy heart
28. Parting word
29. Lodge member
31. Forum wear
33. Winds
34. Wear away
35. Stupid
37. Slangy word of intention
39. Small enough for the mouth
42. Art category
43. Tropical lizard
48. From square one
50. Cheats
53. Kept a galley going
55. Musical work
56. Eagle's nest
57. Terracotta Army site
59. Molten rock
60. Privy to
61. Holy Roman Emperor
62. Christmas song
63. East Indian tree
64. TV initials

Send your completed crossword within two weeks to get our next two issues mailed out for free!

Beijing Today
Room 1801, 23 Building A
Baijiazhuang Dong Li,
Chaoyang District
Beijing 100026

Offer and delivery eligibility limited to Beijing addresses

Last Week's Solution (No.



Beijing Today's reporters cannot accept bribes in exchange for coverage. To report offenders, call +86 (010) 6590 2515 or email hr@beijingtoday.com.cn.

媒体监督热线: +86 (010) 6590 2515, hr@beijingtoday.com.cn

Q CLASSIFIEDS

ART



O.C.D.

Abstract painting and figurative painting are equally concerned with objective phenomena in the end. Abstractly rendered light and color are in themselves objectively present. Yet despite being very real, they are unfathomable. Figurative art is also often based on the same manifestations of color and light.

However, to depict light and color in their ultimate forms is a tricky undertaking. Hence, they in this show can be seen as actually making use of figurative qualities to present a kind of abstract external presence.

Beauty does not reside exclusively in the visual realm. In most cases, an additional, indescribable sensation is involved in the equation. If there is light, there is color.

Most of the artists in this exhibit are devoted to the search for such a sensation of pure light, as well as the boundaries between brightness and shade created by light, and those between colors.

A peculiar state of creation arises from this process of searching for boundaries: obsessive-compulsive disorder. This shifts the problem from the finished art back to the artist himself. Art should be a process in which the work is merely a result, and in this show we see the artists' own creation process made abstract.

⊙ 10 am - 6 pm, July 6
 ↗ EGG Gallery, 327 Caochangdi, Cuige-zhuang, Chaoyang
 ☎ (010) 6432 8089
 ✉ eggartgallery@sina.com
 ❷ eggartgallery.cn



Art Exhibition: Fabricated Cities of Nicole Condon Shih

Nicole Condon Shih is an American interdisciplinary artist who has lived in Beijing for more than seven years.

Her multimedia projects examine micro-macro relationships and explore the city as a laboratory. Her work has been shown internationally in the US, Italy and most recently in Hong Kong at the Bi-City Biennale of Urbanism and Architecture. She holds a BFA from Cornell University's College of Architecture, Art and Planning, an MS from Syracuse University and an MFA from Hunter College, City University of New York.

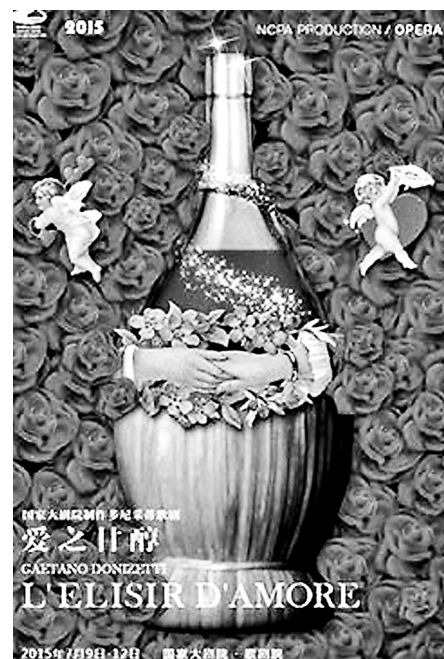
WORKJAM invites you to enjoy Shih's upcoming solo exhibition as explores her art-science experimental process of expanding micro cities and petri-dish paintings.

Fabricated Cities is an ongoing project exploring the physical and metaphorical properties of crystallization.

At the core, artistic experimentation and improvisation are favored over strict scientific procedures. The exhibition displays two series of scaled photographic documentation and the still "in-motion" bubbling sculptures, which are reminiscent of Song Dynasty landscape paintings.

⊙ 9:30 am - 5:30 pm, July 5 to August 5
 ↗ WORKJAM, 2/F, C Hall, Peony Group, Building M8, 1 Jiuxianqiao Dong Lu, Chaoyang
 ☎ (010) 6433 3191 or 18810214990
 ✉ service@workjam.com.cn
 ❷ workjam.com.cn

STAGE



NCPA's Produces Donizetti's L'elisir d'Amore

L'elisir d'Amore is set in a small Italian village about two centuries ago.

A poor peasant Nemorino is in love with Adina, but the beautiful landowner torments Nemorino with her indifference. Nemorino is also afraid she loves the self-important Sergeant Belcore, who appears with his regiment and immediately proposes marriage to Adina in front of everyone.

Traveling quack salesman Dulcamara arrives, selling his bottled 'love potion' to the townspeople. Nemorino drinks it and feels its effects immediately. His confidence that he will win Adina causes him to act indifferently toward her. This upsets Adina and she ups the ante as well by agreeing to Sergeant Belcore's alternate suggestion: that they marry immediately as he has just received orders that the regiment must ship off the next morning.

Nemorino realizes that he has lost Adina. He sees the Doctor and begs him for another 'love potion'. When Nemorino says he has no money Belcore immediately suggests that if he joins the army he'll be paid immediately.

When Nemorino says he's seeking a better life in the army, Adina responds by telling him he is loved and that she has purchased his military contract. Seeing the two in an embrace, the Sergeant leaves and Dr. Dulcamara's potion makes him a rich man.

⊙ 7:30 - 10 pm, July 9 to 12
 ↗ National Centre For The Performing Arts, 2 Chang'an Jie, Xicheng
 💎 100 - 880 yuan
 ☎ (010) 6655 0000
 ✉ ponypiao@damai.cn
 ❷ en.damai.cn/event/tickets_80804; chncpa.org

MUSIC



Brad Little Beijing Concert

Brad Little is an American musical theatre actor who has appeared in a number of Broadway and touring productions.

After several regional productions, he made his national debut in 1988 in the United States national tour of *Anything Goes* as Billy Crocker. The next year, he took the role of Perchik in the Broadway and national tour productions of *Fiddler on the Roof*; in 1993, he played Cpt. De Castel Jaloux in *Cyrano the Musical*.

In 1994, Little joined the cast of Andrew Lloyd Webber's *The Phantom of the Opera* as Raoul. In 1996, he joined the musical's national tour as the title role of the Phantom.

In 2004, Brad joined the World Tour cast of the musical which toured Shang-

hai, Seoul, Taipei, Hong Kong and Singapore. He returned to the role in the current World Tour cast in 2012 for the third and subsequent seasons in Seoul, Bangkok, Singapore (current stop) and Shanghai. He is one of the only four men who have played the role of The Phantom in more than 2,000 performances.

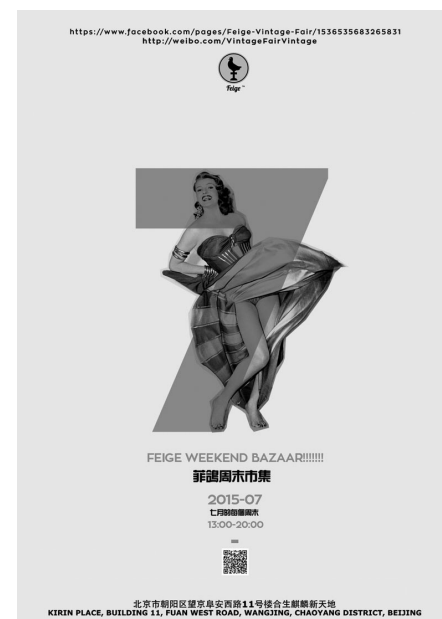
In 2006, he had a solo concert in South Korea that was recorded and released in CD format. In 2009, he toured with *Jekyll and Hyde*, in which he played the title role.

In 2010, he originated the role of Colonel Grayson in Frank Wildhorn's new musical *Tears of Heaven*, which had its world premiere in South Korea. In 2012, he was the understudy of Ricky Martin as Colonel Peron in the acclaimed Broadway revival production of *Evita*.

In Europe, he is known for starring as Jesus in *Jesus Christ Superstar* and as Tony in *West Side Story*.

⊙ 7:30 - 10 pm, July 16 and 17
 ↗ Mei Lanfang Grand Theater, 32 Ping'anli Dajie, Xicheng (southeast of Guanyuan Qiao)
 💎 100 - 880 yuan
 ☎ 4006103721 or 1010372
 ✉ ponypiao@damai.cn
 ❷ mlfjdjy.cn; en.damai.cn/event/tickets_81050

CULTURE



Feige Weekend Bazaar

Started in 2012, FEIGE is now the largest Vintage Fair in Beijing. Our fair has the finest vintage traders around China and goods from 1920-1990. The fair offers numerous workshops, musical performances, swing dance, foosball and a darts tournament.

Feige Vintage Bazaar will feature a vintage market, food and drink providers, DJs and musical performances.

The fair will move from Sanlitun to Wangjing in August. Skip on the area's fast food and Korean restaurants to find great food and fun at the fair. If you have a motorbike, feel free to drive to the weekend bazaar. Parking is available.

⊙ 1 - 8 pm, weekends in July and August
 ↗ Kirin Place, 11 Fu'anxi Lu, Chaoyang

FOODS



The Taste of Lu Cuisine

BY WANG YAN

Shandong has played a major role in Chinese history for more than 3,000 years. In addition to being the home of Taoism, Chinese Buddhism and Confucianism, Shandong's Lu cuisine is considered one of the Four Great Traditions.

Lu cuisine became somewhat standardized in the Yuan Dynasty and gradually spread across northern China. It is said that Shandong cuisine is one of the greatest influences on imperial food.

Seafood is the main ingredient in Lu cuisine thanks to Shandong's extensive coastline. Dishes incorporate scallops, prawns, clams, sea cucumbers and squid. Corn, peanuts and grain are fea-

tured prominently in many Lu dishes. Staple vegetables of the province include potatoes, tomatoes, cabbages, mushrooms and eggplants.

There are more than 30 cooking techniques used in Lu cuisine, among which Bao (fast frying) and Pa are the most common. In Bao preparation, foods are deep-fried in exceptionally hot oil, then removed and seasoned.

Pa is a serving style that arranges well-cooked ingredients into a particular shape and coats them with a sauce thickened by a roux. Other techniques include Liu (quick frying with corn flour), roasting, and boiling.

Shandong cuisine is known for its fresh

soups. Its thin soup is clear and fresh while its creamy soup tastes stronger.

Some Shandong dishes are quite greasy, but the greasiness is usually mixed with salty, sweet and sour flavors. Salt is the main condiment in Shandong cuisine, but sauce pastes, onion and garlic are also used.

Sweet and Sour Carp is a famous dish in Lu cuisine. Folk legend says the dish was created in a small town by the Yellow River, where it won the praise of local diners. It was later introduced to Jinan, the provincial capital. Huiquanlou Restaurant, one of the oldest restaurants in Jinan, is famous for its preparation, which cooks the fish to a golden brown color and a crispy and tender texture.

In addition to sweet and sour carp, typical courses in Lu cuisine include braised abalone with shells, fried sea cucumbers, fragrant calamus in milk soup, quick-fried double fats – a traditional dish of pork tripe and chicken gizzards – and Dezhou stewed chicken.

Shandong people also like to eat onions and use onions as a seasoning. Popular dishes include braised sea cucumbers with onion, cartilage stewed with onions and meat stewed with onions. Roast meats are also served with onions. The onions are usually deep-fried before the dishes are quick fried, stir-fried, stewed or sautéed.

Typical Shandong cuisine also includes steamed buns, baked buns, jianbing, crisp cakes and big cakes stuffed with minced meats. ■



MAKE YOUR OWN WITH THIS RECIPE

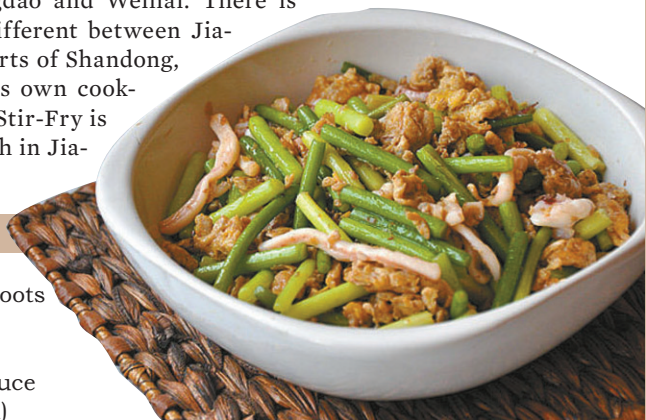
Learn to Make Jiaodong Stir-Fry

BY WANG YAN

Jiaodong refers to the east bank of Shandong's Jiaolai River, which includes the cities of Qingdao and Weihai. There is a subtle cultural difference between Jiaodong and other parts of Shandong, and the area has its own cooking style. Jiaodong Stir-Fry is a representative dish in Jiaodong cooking.

Ingredients:

- 3 eggs
- 4 young garlic shoots
- 1 squid
- 3 dry chilies
- 2 tbsp shrimp sauce
- 3g MSG (optional)



The Steps:

1. Crack the eggs and add them to a bowl. Whisk until they become foamy.
2. Add 2 tbsp shrimp sauce to the eggs and continue whisking.
3. Cut the squid and young garlic shoots into small sections.
4. Oil a pan and add the mixed egg with shrimp sauce. Stir-fry over a low heat.
5. Add the squid and young garlic shoots in sections. Stir-fry over a high flame.
6. Add the MSG and continue to stir-fry.
7. Cook until the young garlic are done. Add the dry chilies before serving.

Lujiake the Shandong Option for Seafood Lovers

BY WANG YAN

Beijing is magical in its ability to satisfy any food craving. There are plenty of Shandong restaurants in the capital, but Lujiake Shandong Restaurant could be the most authentic.

Located near Yuetan, the restaurant is one of the first Shandong restaurants ever to open in Beijing. Although the restaurant is not famous, reviewers on Dianping.com give it a four-star ranking.

Most dishes in the restaurant are made of aquatic products such as clams, river fish and shrimp. While some diners say its spicy and salty shrimp tastes flat, its spicy clams, seafood hotpot and cuttlefish dumplings come highly recommended.

Priced at 48 yuan, the cuttlefish dumplings are one of the most expensive dishes in the restaurant. Nevertheless, they are a hit with reviewers. Many declare they are the best dumplings they've ever had in Beijing.

If you're an adventurous eater, then the restaurant's sea worm dumplings might suit your curious palate.

Other than traditional Shandong cuisine, Lujiake also serves dishes from other parts of China including the pineapple sweet and sour pork and pork stuffed buns of Guangdong province.

Customers are often impressed by the restaurant's environment. Reviewers said the waiters were helpful and friendly. The restaurant has a spacious dining area and very affordable dishes. ■



Lujiake Restaurant

30 Yuetan South Street, Xicheng
(010) 6802 0888